

Exercise Granite Triangle

Supporting Iraq's ERU

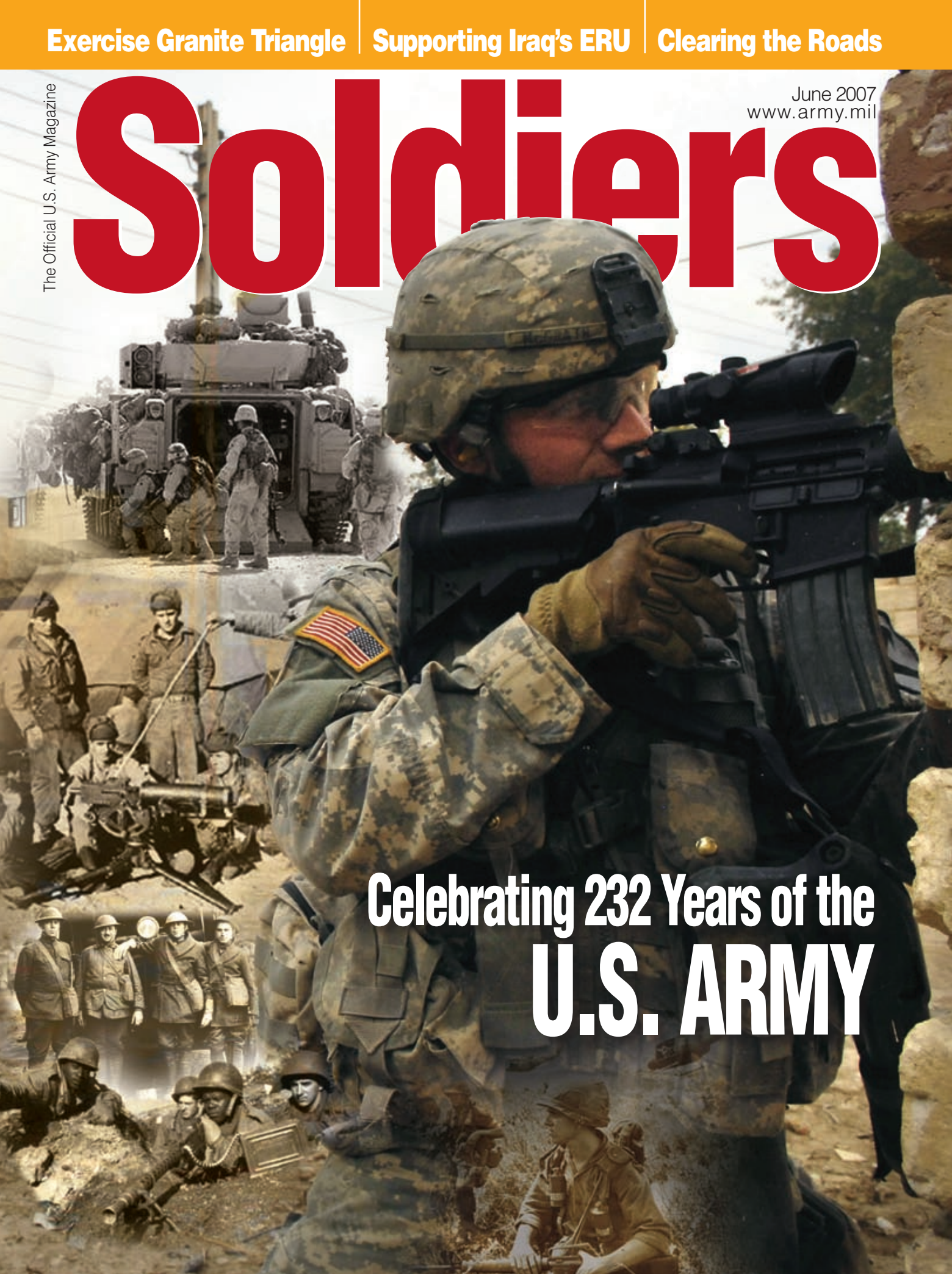
Clearing the Roads

The Official U.S. Army Magazine

June 2007
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Soldiers

Celebrating 232 Years of the
U.S. ARMY





Cover

This month the Army celebrates its 232nd birthday.

— Photo montage by Paul Henry Crank

CONTE

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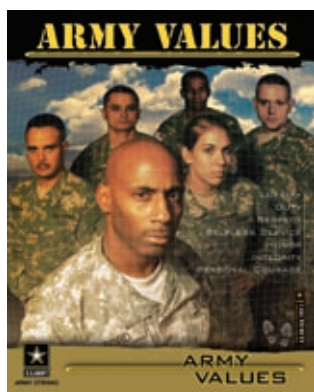
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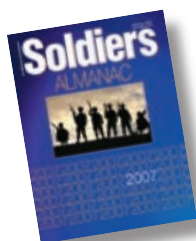
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Soldiers, Civilians and Families of the United States Army:

I am extremely proud to be taking charge of an organization that is rightly regarded as the best in the world. I have watched the men and women of our Army in action for the past several years in the most demanding combat environment. I am proud of the courage, competence and commitment of our Soldiers and Civilians, both to the ideals that made this country great and to making a difference in our world. You epitomize what is best about America. You and your Families carry a heavy burden in today's war, with a hard road ahead. Your willingness to sacrifice to build a better future for others and to preserve our way of life is a great strength of our nation. In every generation, when faced with difficult challenges, Americans have risen to the occasion. Today, such heroes fill the Army's ranks. It is your efforts that will make victory possible.

We are locked in a war against a global extremist network that is fixed on defeating the United States and destroying our way of life. This foe will not go away nor will they give up easily, and the next decade will likely be one of persistent conflict. We are engaged in a long war.

At stake are the power of our values and our civilization, exemplified by the promise of America, to confront and defeat the menace of extremist terrorists. At stake is whether the authority of those who treasure the rights of free individuals will stand firm against the ruthless and pitiless men who wantonly slay the defenseless. At stake is whether the future will be framed by the individual freedoms we hold so dear or dominated by a demented form of extremism. At stake is whether we will continue to expand freedom, opportunity and decency for those who thirst for it, or let fall the darkness of extremism and terror.

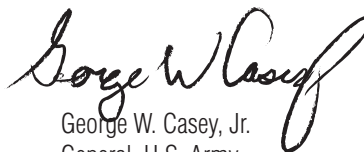
We have been at war for over five years, fighting for our freedom, our security and our future as a nation. We have made hard sacrifices. There will be more. Faced with such a long and difficult struggle, it is useful to remind ourselves that the Army exists to field forces for victory. We are in this war to win. We have fought this way since 1775. We always will.

As Soldiers, we will lead the nation to victory over this enemy. Our combat veterans know well the meaning of "Army Strong." They have been "baptized in fire and blood, and they have come out as steel." That steel endures. Our Warrior Ethos has it right:

- I will always place the mission first.
- I will never quit.
- I will never accept defeat.
- I will never leave a fallen comrade.

Seldom in our history have Soldiers faced greater challenges. We serve at a time when the stakes for our nation and our way of life are high, and the demands on our force significant. We will continue to reflect the very best of our nation by defeating the enemies of freedom and the proponents of terror, by defending our homeland and by assisting our nation to build a better future for coming generations.

I could not be more proud to be a Soldier today and to stand shoulder to shoulder with you and your Families during this time of great danger and uncertainty. Together we are, and always will be, ARMY STRONG.


George W. Casey, Jr.
General, U.S. Army
Chief of Staff

At Forward Operating Base Warrior, Spc. Phil Brodnick of the 25th Infantry Division's 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry Regiment, climbs into position before a mission into the city of Kirkuk.



Making a Difference in **KIRKUK**

Story and Photos by
Spc. Mike Alberts

SPC. Phil Brodnick performed the same evening ritual he's conducted more than 100 times in preparation for other combat missions — cleaning weapons, setting the correct frequencies for radios, checking to make sure

Spc. Mike Alberts is assigned to the 3rd IBCT Public Affairs Office.

his buddies were prepared.

Pulling himself atop his Humvee, he settled down inside the turret of his team's tactical vehicle and mentally prepared for the mission.

Elsewhere, in dozens of command posts, offices, motor pools and maintenance bays throughout the Kirkuk province, thousands of the 25th Infantry Division's 3rd Inf. Brigade

Combat Team Soldiers also prepared for or were conducting missions. Others refitted their equipment upon returning from missions.

The "Bronco" Brigade

The 3rd IBCT's area of responsibility is roughly the size of Rhode Island, and its mission is to train



▲ Spc. Michael Allen (left) and Pfc. Brandon Hayden, both with the 325th Brigade Support Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, work to bring a vehicle back on-line for the next morning's mission at FOB Warrior.



members of Iraq's security forces, defeat anti-Iraqi forces, extend the reach of the elected government, and restore Iraqi provincial control and civil authority, said Col. Patrick T. Stackpole, the brigade commander.

"We're here to increase the Iraqis' capabilities and support the government as it addresses the needs of the people," Col. Stackpole said.

That means moving toward more Iraqi-led security operations and

▼ Pfc. Joseph Gardner, an aviation fueler with Company E, 2nd Squadron, 6th Cavalry Regiment, pumps the one-millionth gallon of aviation fuel at FOB Warrior with a helping hand from Brig. Gen. Francis J. Wiercinski, the 25th Inf. Div. deputy commanding general for support.

▼ Lt. Col. Drew Meyerowich, commander of 2nd Battalion, 27th Inf. Regt., 3rd Brigade Combat Team, listens to community concerns from civil and law-enforcement leaders of communities surrounding Forward Operating Base McHenry, located just outside of Hawija, Iraq.

Iraqi-led governance in all areas. To accomplish the mission, Col. Stackpole directly oversees the brigade's six battalions, a central command-and-control element, and other attached units. The six battalions operate from four bases.

Their primary installation is Forward Operating Base Warrior, on the outskirts of Kirkuk.

Closing the Gap

Spc. Brodnick, the heavy machine gunner for the night's mission into Kirkuk, sat down in the "saddle," his head and shoulders peeking out above his vehicle.

"When we travel outside the wire, I'm one of the Soldiers who provides security for the entire group," said Spc. Brodnick. "I'm the guy on top with the most combat-effective weapon, so the others rely on me to





some extent, and I wouldn't have it any other way."

Spc. Brodnick is among hundreds of Soldiers with the 2nd Battalion, 35th Inf. Regiment, charged with carrying out the brigade's mission in and around Kirkuk.

"Among our key tasks is to train members of a credible and capable Iraqi security force. We are partnered with 22 major police stations and several other substations that include approximately 4,000 Iraqi police," said Lt. Col. Michael Browder, 2nd Bn.'s commander. "We also work in conjunction with an Iraqi infantry unit."

When Lt. Col. Browder arrived,

he identified four main "credibility gaps" that prevented the Iraqi police from thwarting insurgent activity in their city. Among those gaps were poor relationships within various police departments, and between the police and the Ministry of Interior, the city government and local citizens.

Soldiers of 2nd Bn. have closed those gaps significantly by "partnering with the Iraqi Police 24/7," Lt. Col. Browder said. The police force, which has become more visible in communities, is also perceived by the public to be more capable.

"A year ago, the people viewed the Iraqi police as thugs. Now they actually come to the police stations

▲ Aviators from 2nd Sqdn., 6th Cav., land their OH-58D Kiowa Warriors at FOB Warrior for refueling, reloading and a quick maintenance check between combat missions.

to report criminal and insurgent activities, and they do it because their trust and confidence in the police are growing," he said.

Just outside Kirkuk, at the Habasa oil fields, one of the two largest oil producing regions in Iraq, crude oil is extracted from the earth. Transporting it from Kirkuk to refineries 150 kilometers to the southwest, in Bayji, requires an extensive pipeline system. Soldiers of the 3rd Bn., 7th Field Artillery Regt., help secure the region's natural resources.



Artillerymen and Trainers

"Circle up," said Capt. Loreto Borce, calling Soldiers together for a quick prayer in which he asked God

▲ Iraqi police officers with Kirkuk's Emergency Services Unit mobilize outside of a village in the Rashaad Valley in northern Iraq during a combined Iraqi security force and coalition force air and ground operation outside of Kirkuk.

to protect the troops from roadside bombs.

Capt. Borce, executive officer and assistant team chief for 3rd Bn., 7th FA's military transition team, is also the group's tactical commander. Recently, the platoon witnessed training by an element of the Iraqi 1st Strategic Infrastructure Bde.

"The 3-7's mission is to partner with Iraqi personnel who are responsible for protecting natural resources infrastructures, including oil fields and electrical power plants," said the battalion's commander, Lt. Col. Jack Pritchard. "The Iraqi units include the 1st Separate Inf. Bde., the Oil Protec-

tion Force and the Electrical Protection Security Service."

The OPF is responsible for securing Iraq's Northern Oil Company and its many gas- and oil-separation stations. The 1st SIB is responsible for security along the pipeline corridor stretching from Dibis, a town northwest of Kirkuk, to Bayji, 150 kilometers southwest of Kirkuk.

At the same time, EPSS guards are responsible for securing the three main electrical-power plants and more than 70 electrical substations throughout the brigade's area of operations.

Lt. Col. Pritchard's Soldiers are responsible for assisting the Iraqi units.

"We conduct extensive training-readiness assessments on a monthly basis on all SIB units, measuring all of their requirements," he said. "OPF and EPSS are assessed similarly, albeit not as exhaustively, because they were already relatively capable before we arrived.

"The number of IEDs placed on the pipeline has decreased significantly since we've been here," Lt. Col. Pritchard said. But, he said, his unit's true measure of success is in the continuing independence of the





Iraqi security forces. “We continue to add value to the OPF and EPSS, but they are now very capable.”

Engineers Forward

One of dozens of Soldiers trying to keep the roads clear of IEDs is Pfc. Joseph Brangwynne, a combat engineer assigned to 3rd Bde.’s Special Troops Bn.

“I’m on the main supply routes every day, helping to clear them for other units so they can complete their missions,” he said. “We look for signs

of explosives on the roads. When we find them, we neutralize the threats.”

The battalion contains a mix of units, including engineer, signal, intelligence, police, chemical-reconnaissance, force-protection and facilities-management, among other assets, said its commander, Lt. Col. Bryan Truesdell.

In one of their most critical missions, however, Soldiers clear an average of 300 kilometers of roads every day, he said, finding as many as three or four IEDs during one patrol.

New Soldiers

Pvts. Jeremy Bahn and Mychael Begaye are among the brigade’s newest infantrymen.

▲ Soldiers of 2nd Bn., 35th Inf. Regt., and Iraqi police officers move out for a combined operation near Kirkuk.

Both graduated from one-station unit training at Fort Benning, Ga., just three months before arriving in Iraq. Now, as part of the 2nd Bn., 27th Inf. Regt., they’re involved in a challenging counterinsurgency fight, mentoring both Iraqi army and police units, and continuously participating in joint, cooperative combat operations.

“Even though we trained for this, nothing really prepares you for being here. So, I’m a little nervous,” Pvt. Bahn said.

“I’m anxious to see what it’s like out here,” said Pvt. Begaye. “I know we need to be alert all the time and expect anything. But it’s hard. I don’t

◀ During a route-clearance mission near Kirkuk, Soldiers of the 25th Inf. Div.’s Co. A, 3rd Bde. Special Troops Bn., 3rd Bde. Combat Team, dismount to investigate a car suspected of housing an IED.



▲ Command Sgt. Maj. Louis Angelucci of 2nd Bn., 35th Inf. Regt., surveys a village in the northern Rashaad Valley as Iraqi police officers leave for another location.

know much about Hawija.”

Hawija is the largest town within the battalion’s area of operations, and is controlled by tribal leaders “who compete with democracy in the area,” said Lt. Col. Drew Meyerowich, the 2nd Bn. commander. “In this part of the country, tribal sheiks provide for the people. So when you try to provide a government for the people, the tribal leaders need to be part of the process.”

Lt. Col. Meyerowich’s Soldiers, therefore, devote considerable time to building relationships between Arabs, Iraqi security forces and coalition forces. It’s not their sole priority. According to Lt. Col. Meyerowich, the objectives are simple.

“We are building a confident and professional Iraqi army and police force, ensuring that they have pride in themselves and their communities,” he added. “Second, we are conveying that confidence to the people. Only when the people have confidence in their security forces to protect them, will they become more active in their own destiny. Finally, we need to continue allowing Iraqis to fix their internal problems while we continue to protect them from outside influences.”

Soldiers have helped complete more than \$2 million worth of economic-development projects and are currently supporting ongoing projects worth an estimated \$3 million. Additionally, their 4,000 square-kilometer sector has experienced a 40-percent decrease in IED activity since they arrived in August.

That’s largely due to the coor-

dated support the Soldiers receive from the brigade’s air cavalry unit, Lt. Col. Meyerowich said.

Support from Above

“Supporting the ground troops is what we do,” said Capt. Anne McClain, detachment commander of the 25th Combat Aviation Bde.’s 2nd Sqdn., 6th Cavalry Regt.

“Our primary mission is to provide direct support aviation to the brigade, which it wouldn’t usually have. That support includes reconnaissance, security, close-combat attack and air-assault capabilities,” said squadron commander Lt. Col. James Barker.

“The most effective capability that we bring to the brigade, however, is deterrence. Ninety-eight percent of the brigade’s elements moving on the ground do not get attacked when our

pilots are in the air above them,” he said. “Soldiers on the ground often express their gratitude to my troopers for the security blanket that our helicopters offer their operations.”

While brigade pilots provide critical support from the air, it’s the Soldiers of the 325th Bde. Support Bn. who provide life-sustaining support on the ground.

World-Class Support

“We are the brigade’s support battalion,” said Lt. Col. James Hess, the 325th’s commander. “We’re the ones providing flexible and responsive combat-service support and combat-health support to the brigade, and establishing support operations to sustain all elements throughout the brigade’s AO.”

The battalion also conducts logistics partnerships with the Iraqi army’s garrison-support unit and 4th Motorized Truck Regt.

Mission Complete

Spc. Brodnick breathed a little easier as he returned from his mission in Kirkuk.

“The best part of it all is when it’s over,” he said. “When it’s done and nobody has been hurt, that’s the best part. Then, we’re back to just being buddies, knowing that we just knocked out another day.”

► Soldiers of 2nd Bn., 27th Inf. Regt., dismount to search for a roadside bomb during a route clearing mission in Hawija.



Building

RELATIONSHIPS

Story and Photos by Petty Officer 1st Class Michael Larson, USN

in Iraq



U.S. MILITARY officials have often said when America's Soldiers and Iraqi soldiers and civilians bridge the culture gap, friendships become the foundation for a better Iraq.

Army civil-affairs teams play a critical role in forging these friendships, said Capt. Wendy Weinell of the 490th Civil Affairs Team.

In the impoverished town of Husiniyah, for example, a caravan of Humvees recently pulled up outside a medical clinic that has yet to open to the public. Groups of excited children gathered outside the building, in hopes of getting chocolates or other gifts from the Soldiers.

As Capt. Weinell stepped out of her Humvee, the Soldiers in her personal-security detachment spread out in all directions to form a perimeter. They then handed out what goodies they brought, mostly candy and school supplies.

Capt. Weinell and Sgt. Chris Edwards, also of the 490th, headed into the clinic to meet its administrators and find out what the clinic needed before it could open

Petty Officer 1st Class Michael Larson was deployed to Iraq when he wrote this article.

◀ Staff Sgt. Richard Rodriguez of the 1st Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, prepares to hand out pencils and notebooks to anxious Iraqi children in the town of Assyria during a health and welfare visit to provide much-needed supplies for the residents.



its doors to the community.

"Civil affairs is the link between the Army and the Iraqi people," said Sgt. Edwards. "Our goal is to determine the services the people need, such as the type of clinics, whether they need drinking water and electricity, and schools."

"America is a fast-paced society," said Capt. Weinell, a Pennsylvania police officer in her full-time job. "When interacting with the Iraqi people, we have to learn to slow down and listen. They are in the beginning phases of democracy, and we have to remember they have to learn how a democracy works."

After Capt. Weinell and Sgt. Edwards exchanged greetings with the clinic administrators, their Iraqi hosts offered them refreshments. Then one of the Iraqis turned on a small television set so the group could watch an American movie.

After the movie, the group engaged in conversation, but not about business.

"Iraqis like relationships. They like to engage in small talk, use first names and exchange gifts," said interpreter Ahmed Talib. "Iraqis want the Americans they associate with to know about their families, especially about how many children they have. They want the Americans to ask about their families. It is considered rude to talk about business before talking about each other first."

"When we spend time with them and get to know each other, we find out that we're pretty much the

▲ Sgt. Jose Lozoya helps build a tower of broken bricks with an Iraqi boy during a civil-affairs visit to the construction site of a new courthouse for the town of Husiniyah.

same," said Maj. Herbert Joliat, a civil-affairs officer with the 1st Brigade, 4th Infantry Division. "We all have families, and we all want the best for them, especially for our children."


The clinic in Husiniyah, about an hour's drive north of Baghdad, is just one of many projects Capt. Weinell and her team are helping to improve.

Husiniyah is also the site of a new fire department, a water-treatment plant and a school that Soldiers are helping to build through their liaison work with local community leaders. Each site and each project offers opportunities for Americans to build relationships with Iraqis, Mr. Talib said.

"During Saddam Hussein's rule, people were afraid to speak up," he said. "Now that they can, they just need to trust."

Once the Iraqis tell Capt. Weinell and Sgt. Edwards what they need, the civil-affairs representatives negotiate with local contractors to build the facilities and deliver the needed resources to get the job done.

For Capt. Weinell and Sgt. Edwards, the needs of residents in many towns in their area can be overwhelming. There is more work to be done than they could ever possibly accomplish during their yearlong tours in Iraq. But the biggest impacts they and other Soldiers in their unit can make are on the local children, Sgt. Edwards said.

"When the Soldiers give to the children, talk to them, teach them English, they don't forget," said Mr. Talib. 

Clearing the Roads

Story and Photos by Staff Sgt. Chris A. Durney



▲ A Soldier peers out of the reinforced window of a Buffalo during a route-clearance patrol west of Baghdad.

NATIONAL Guard engineers attached to an Army Reserve brigade are playing a critical role in ensuring military and civil mobility in central Iraq.

The Guard Soldiers' mission success is a testament to the strength of the Engineer Corps, no matter the component, said 875th Engineer Battalion officials at Camp Striker, Iraq.

Recently, on a major supply route west of Baghdad, a route-clearance patrol rumbled along at a snail's pace. Sharp eyes peered from reinforced windows and inside a succession of heavily armored vehicles as they looked for signs of buried improvised explosive devices.

Staff Sgt. Chris A. Durney is assigned to the 875th Engineer Battalion.

Soldiers of the battalion's 4th Platoon, 131st Engr. Company, were familiar with the particular stretch of highway and the consequences that awaited those who are not vigilant.

Logistics convoys, military columns, and an endless stream of Iraqi cars and trucks moved between the major metropolitan areas of Baghdad and Ballad, an area critical to rebuilding Iraq's infrastructure and economy.

Responsibility for movement in this area falls to the 411th Engr. Brigade, an Army Reserve unit headquartered in New Windsor, N.Y.

The brigade's motto, "Plan, Build and Protect," describes its role in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

To meet the "protect" standard, the brigade turns to the 875th, an Arkansas Army



◀ The Buffalo is the main route-clearance vehicle used by Army engineers in Iraq. The heavily armored vehicle features a robotic arm used to investigate and clear improvised explosive devices insurgents plant alongside main supply routes.



▲ A roadside IED, unearthed in central Iraq by Soldiers of the 411th Engineer Brigade's 875th Engr. Battalion, awaits EOD technicians who will render it safe.

National Guard battalion headquartered in Jonesboro. Soldiers from the Indiana Army Guard's 1313th Engr. Co., and the Vermont Guard's 131st, augment the Arkansas unit.

After months of intensive training at Fort McCoy, Wis., the brigade deployed to Iraq and settled in at its new home at Logistics Support Area Anaconda. The 875th is headquartered at Camp Striker, near Baghdad, and has colocated units at Anaconda. The 131st also calls Striker home.

On the recent night patrol, one of the trail gun-trucks spotted a tiny stretch of cleverly concealed command wire, and notified the

patrol's main route-clearance workhorse. Soon afterward, a huge, truck-like armored vehicle, called a Buffalo, carefully pulled up to an area just off the pavement and went to work. With a deft hand, an engineer inside manipulated the Buffalo's robotic arm and investigated the suspected site of an improvised explosive device.

In several minutes the engineer uncovered and disarmed the buried munitions, chalking up another success in the fight to disrupt insurgent activities. An explosive ordnance team then detonated the IED before the patrol moved on.

After more than eight hours out-

▲ An 875th Engr. Bn. route-clearance patrol scours a main supply route in central Iraq, looking for IEDs and providing mobility for the 411th Engr. Bde. The Arkansas Army National Guard's 875th and the Army Reserve's 411th are on yearlong deployments in Iraq.

side Camp Striker the patrol returned to the camp's motor pool. Morning light began to filter in over its concrete barriers as the men dismounted and shed their 50 pounds of body armor, helmets and other gear.

It had been a long night, and there was still plenty to do before the Soldiers collapsed into bed.

The Reserve's 411th and the Guard's 875th have formed a tight professional bond that has resulted in an impressive success record, respective unit officials said. As of Feb. 1, the 875th had conducted more than 800 patrols, covered some 100,000 kilometers of roadway, and uncovered more than 300 threats to convoys. ■

Supporting Iraq's

ERUs

Story and Photos by Capt. Mark Lappeggaard

SINCE deploying to Camp Ramadi, Iraq, in January, the 2nd Platoon of 2nd Squadron, 194th Armored Reconnaissance, has supported more than 2,000 Iraqi soldiers who make up al-Anbar province's new emergency-response units.

The platoon is responsible for paying troops of the ERUs and providing them with equipment. They support an Iraqi security force that works for the Iraqi government, not the coalition forces.

"We like them because they know who the bad guys are and how to get them," said platoon leader 1st Lt. Jeffery Houglum. "They like us because we pay them and provide them with the equipment they need. It's a great arrangement."

Capt. Mark Lappeggaard is the public affairs officer for the 1st Battalion, 34th Brigade Combat Team.



It's also a unique arrangement, unit officials said. The ERUs are the first of their kind in al-Anbar province, and 1st Lt. Houglum's platoon is the first to work with them. In fact, before the platoon arrived, the ERUs hadn't been paid for the first two months they were organized," said squad leader Sgt. Eric Anderson.

"We showed up with duffle bags full of Iraqi dinars," said Sgt. Anderson. "So, suddenly, we were their new best friends."

The platoon has also provided new Ford F350 trucks, AK-47 assault rifles, ammunition, fuel, body armor and cell phones. Even such necessities as food, water, mattresses and blankets are given to the ERUs to ensure they spend their time doing what they do best — killing insurgents.

ERUs are the latest type of unit organized to combat anti-Iraqi forces in the troubled province, military officials said. Unlike the Iraqi army or police, the ERUs are homegrown, developed by Sunni tribal leaders who were frequent victims of continued al-Qaeda violence in al-Anbar.

Al-Qaeda in Iraq kidnapped and murdered Sheik Khalid of the Albu Ali Jassim tribe in August 2006 and left his body where it could not be found, preventing the family from burying him within 24 hours, as is prescribed by Muslim tradition.

In response, the Sunni sheiks drew up a declaration supporting their fight against al-Qaeda and condoning solidarity with coalition forces and Iraqi security forces, U.S. officials said.

The tribes refer to the movement as "the Awakening," said Sheik Ahmed Abureeshah, who added, "Al-Qaeda killed my father, three of my brothers and 14 other sheiks from different tribes."

Keeping the Awakening going is the main goal of 1st

► Sgt. Eric Anderson counts Iraqi currency as part of his pay duties for al-Anbar's emergency response unit in Ramadi.

Lt. Houglum's platoon. As might be expected for any new unit and initiative, distributing authority and defining success are ongoing processes.

"The National Guard company we deployed with is in al-Assad, 70 miles away," said 1st Lt. Houglum. "We've been attached and cross-attached to a variety of Army and Marine units. To make matters worse, the ERUs are new, so they are pulled many ways,

too. But at the end of the day, we're all on the same team, with the same goal: supporting the Iraqi security forces, so they can get the bad guys."

"It's challenging, but we can see the rewards immediately," added Sgt. Patrick Russ, a team leader in the platoon. "We have seen the ERUs bring in weapons caches and many suspected insurgents."

While cautious, 1st Lt. Houglum is not overly concerned when he visits the ERUs.

"As the 'guys with the goods,' the ERUs aren't going to let anything happen to us," said squad leader Staff Sgt. Jack Esget. "We're treated like honored guests at their compound, with dozens, if not hundreds, of fighters protecting us."

Still, the Soldiers take force protection very seriously. On the same day that they visited an ERU in western Ramadi, a suicide car bomber attacked an Iraqi police station in the center of town, killing the police chief and seven police officers. In a later incident, a suicide bomber attacked an ERU with a dump truck full of explosives, killing 16 people and wounding 55 others.

The town of Ramadi is located in central al-Anbar, 70 miles west of Baghdad, on the Euphrates River. The provincial capital's 400,000 citizens are mostly Sunni. The town is considered the southwest corner of the "Sunni Triangle" and is a suspected staging area for attacks in Baghdad.

Camp Ramadi was part of a recreation complex built under Saddam Hussein's regime. The palaces and archways are partially destroyed, so the platoon lives and works out of 20-by-60-foot wooden huts. Despite the dirt streets and muddy clay fields, life at the camp is enhanced through the availability of such standard services as a post exchange, a small computer lab with Internet access and a barber shop. ■



◀ Sgt. Patrick Russ provides security during a meeting between Soldiers of the 194th Armored Reconnaissance's 2nd Platoon, 2nd Squadron, and al-Anbar's emergency response unit in Ramadi.



Honoring the

Last MASH

Story by Mr. Phil Tegtmeier Photos by Ms. Christine June

PFC. Kevin Henderson turned his back to the crowd and began to walk. The damp grass colored the tips of his brown leather boots chocolate. The sun, off to his right, did its best to break through the low-lying clouds.

As Pfc. Henderson, a radiologist, continued his measured gait across the field, he realized he would be the last person to carry the colors of the last mobile Army surgical hospital.

Mr. Phil Tegtmeier works at the Europe Regional Medical Command Public Affairs Office.

The 212th's conversion is but a small part of the reshuffling of people and materiel across the Army Medical Command.

◀ Soldiers of the 212th MASH — known as “The Last MASH Standing” — case the unit's colors during a ceremony marking the end of the Army's MASH units.

Behind him, Col. Angel Lugo and Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Mendoza fitted the unit's battle streamers to new colors that would denote the 212th Combat Support Hospital.

A MASH once had a place in the Army. Having an organization specialized in providing life- and limb-saving surgery as close as possible to the front line was an efficient method of increasing a Soldier's chances of surviving the fight, Col. Lugo said.

But as times and tactics changed, the MASH, with its confining structure, had to go.

For the past six years the 212th MASH in Miesau, Germany, was unofficially known as the “Last MASH Standing.” The unit's doctors, nurses and medical staff lived with gentle jibes about their namesake, the 4077th MASH of the hit 1970s television series.

And while it was usually humorous to be likened to people like Hawkeye, B.J. and Hot Lips Hoolihan, everyone assigned to the 212th over the years knew there was a big

difference between providing entertainment and giving life-saving care to Soldiers in combat, Col. Lugo added.

“You mention the word MASH and, because of the TV series, people across America associate it with a field hospital whose staff saved lives on the battlefield,” Col. Lugo said. “We'll miss that connection, and I hope the American public doesn't forget what we do, now that we have a new name. We are professionals on the battlefield, and we'll be saving lives for many years to come. What I want Soldiers to know is that if on some future battlefield they are wounded and make it to us, they are going to live.”

The 212th's conversion is but a small part of the reshuffling of people and materiel across the Army Medical Command. As the Army modularizes, so, too, do the combat medical units that will provide Army medicine in the field. A new acronym joined the Army lexicon — MRI, or medical re-engineering initiative.



▲ Soldiers pack isolation masks at one of the 212th's warehouses at Miesau Army Depot.

Many units since World War I have carried the title of combat surgical hospital, but MRI has made today's CSH smaller, lighter and more compact than the previous versions. The 212th, for example, is designed around an 84-bed inpatient capacity that can expand up to 248 beds with the assignment of reserve-component units from the United States.

The core setup is a 44-bed arrangement that, as part of an early-entry force, can accept wounded Soldiers within 72 hours of arrival in theater. The operating room can be available within six or seven hours.

It comes in an air-transportable, “three-in-one,” hard-sided trailer. The sides unfold to become the ceiling sections for a room large enough to allow two surgical teams to operate

▶ Mr. Joseph Wargo, a U.S. Army Medical Materiel Agency electronic technician, performs software calibration on a patient ventilator at one of the 212th Mobile Army Surgical Hospital's warehouses on Miesau Army Depot in Kaiserslautern.





at the same time. The CSH has two surgical units, as well as a laboratory, digital X-ray equipment and intensive-care units. The staff includes a new mix of health-care professionals, too, Col. Lugo said.

In their new configuration, the 212th staff can provide medical support just as readily to Soldiers in combat as to civilians in a humanitarian-relief setting.

Operating room technicians Pfc. Jessica Hourigan (*left*) and Pfc. Charity Lee enjoy a brief respite while packing syringes for use by medical personnel during deployment.

Personnel from the 212th Mobile Army Surgical Hospital develop a system to functionally pack medical supplies, grouping the supplies the way medical personnel would use them during a deployment.

“This is the specialty-care ward,” said wardmaster Staff Sgt. Tammie Haynes during a tour of the facility for unit family members. “This addition to the hospital gives us the ability to provide labor and delivery services, pediatrics and mental-health care. In Pakistan, we had to create a ward like this, but now it’s part of our standard setup.”

Staff Sgt. Haynes was referring to the last mission of the MASH. Just a year before its conversion, the 212th was in Pakistan following that country’s 7.6-magnitude earthquake. It was there that U.S. medical officials recognized a serious mismatch of resources and





requirements, Col. Lugo said.

Thousands of people living in the harsh Northern Pakistan mountains had died in the initial quake and its aftershocks. Rocks and rubble crushed entire villages. In the quake's aftermath, the Pakistani people needed more than the strictly surgical capabilities of a MASH.

Planners and logisticians built a package around the 212th's core capabilities. Human Resources Command; Army Medical Command; the U.S. Army Medical Materiel Agency; U.S. Army, Europe; V Corps; and the Europe Regional Medical Command (which oversees the delivery of medical care in Europe), all pitched in to help the 30th Medical Brigade and its subordinate, the 212th MASH, prepare for the mission.

Doctors, nurses and support staff were called on from three Army hospitals in Germany. Even the 67th CSH, in the process of standing down in Europe, provided Soldiers to go "downrange." In its three-month deployment, Task Force 212 treated more than 20,000 Pakistanis.

In its new configuration, the next mission for the 212th will be easier, Col. Lugo said. The conversion to a CSH brings the unit back from zero readiness in February 2006, to a higher level of readiness. Additionally, the unit received new equipment and nearly a 98 percent resupply of "everything we need to answer a call 'downrange,'" Col. Lugo said.

"In late September 2006 we had a team from U.S. Army Materiel Management Agency deliver more than \$5 million worth of supplies, surgical sets and other equipment to get us ready for our new mission. And the USAMMA team stayed on to train our staff," Col. Lugo added.

The unit received the newest medical equipment the Army had to offer, said Maj. James Tuten, chief of plans and operations for USAMMA's Force Sustainment Directorate.

Radiology specialists like Pfc. Henderson will use a digital radiography machine that uses electrons instead of X-ray film. The time saved by not having to process film used in older radiography equipment can

▲ Mr. Joseph Wargo (right) shows Spc. Russell Hamblin of the 226th Medical Logistics Battalion how to perform an operational check on the Phillips X-ray machine.

mean the difference between life and death. This is especially true during the "golden hour," the period of time a wounded Soldier has to survive on his or her own after being wounded.

Another aspect of the 212th's conversion comes from the fact that the equipment fielding, personnel actions and required training all took place with the unit's parent, the 30th Med. Bde., deployed to Iraq, Col. Lugo said. Reserve-component Soldiers from around the United States and Europe filled out a provisional unit from Heidelberg. They guided the conversion, even as many of them were on yearlong assignments in a foreign land without their families.

"You know, we can change the unit all we want, but the heart of the 212th MASH is now the heart of the 212th CSH," said Col. Terry D. Carroll, commander of the 30th Med. Bde. Rear element. "It's the men and women who serve. I know they'll do us proud." 🇺🇸

Capturing

Combat on



Story and Photos by Mr. Tom Mani

STAFF Sgt. Timothy Lawn, an Army Reservist who worked as a combat artist in Iraq, wants people to know what it's like for Soldiers who serve America in that war-torn country.

Assigned to the 214th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, Staff Sgt. Lawn completed 35 sketches and watercolors during his time in theater, from 2004 to 2005.

"I've been painting all my life," he said. But after returning from Operation Desert Storm, he turned to art as a profession, taking honors at his graduation from the Sarasota, Fla., Ringling School of Art and Design, where he studied graphic and interactive communication and minored in photography.

He also made the shift to the Army after beginning as a Marine, joining the Army Reserve in Braden-

Mr. Tom Mani works in the Fort McNair Public Affairs Office.

◀ Army Reserve Staff Sgt. Timothy Lawn completed 35 sketches and watercolors during his yearlong deployment to Iraq.



Canvas

ton, Fla., in 1998.

Renee Klish, curator of art at the U.S. Army Center of Military History at Fort McNair in Washington, D.C., recently cataloged Lawn's art works.

"I'm always interested in military art," said Ms. Klish, who added she was very impressed when Lawn sent samples of his work to CMH. "A camera sees with a single eye. While capturing images with great impact, it's limited by what is in front of it at the time the shutter is tripped. An artist sees with two eyes and has a subjective viewpoint."

Confessing a preference for quickly rendered, on-the-spot sketches, Ms. Klish believes the artist can often extract the essence of an experience far better than the camera can. Many of Staff Sgt. Lawn's sketches have notes he made about the scene being drawn, something Lawn did at Ms. Klish's request.

The notes are themselves reportorial in nature, she said.

Staff Sgt. Lawn drew Soldiers in various units, following requests he

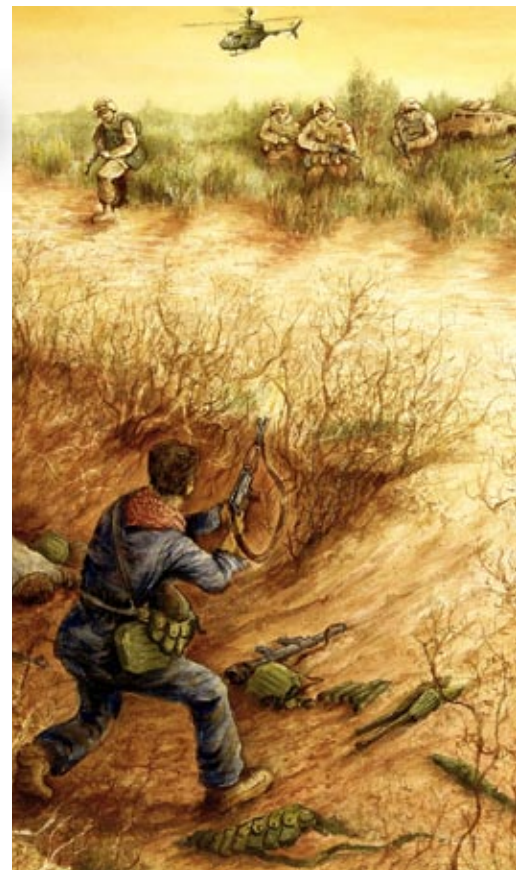
made to commanders of those units in the field. The requests were initially met with silence, then an incredulous, "You want to do what?" he said. "But I came up through the infantry, and after completing my first sketch, I was pretty much accepted."

In theater, his artwork appeared on posters and publication covers.

Staff Sgt. Lawn's drawings sometimes compress scenes in terms of space and time — several aspects of an attack can be shown in a painting, although they occurred over the space of hours.

Among the most fully rendered of Staff Sgt. Lawn's art works are two watercolors that capture aspects of an intense firefight in Diyala Province that cost the lives of two Soldiers and two Iraqi army troops.

One image shows stages of the initial contact, which began with such intensity, Staff Sgt. Lawn said, that the ambushed platoon expended its entire initial load of ammunition in the first 10 minutes. "Into the Hornets' Nest" shows an OH-58 Kiowa



▲ Detail from "Final Push."

Warrior in attack mode and a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter arriving to evacuate casualties, as dismounted Soldiers react on the ground.

"The Final Push" shows the attacking U.S. fire team advancing on the enemy, whose forces are firing from irrigation ditches. Included in the image are the two Soldiers who were killed, and the lieutenant who had been leading a company of Iraqi soldiers and his 24-member platoon in a search for weapons caches when they were ambushed.

"It was too dark for cameras to capture what happened on that occasion," Staff Sgt. Lawn said.

Documentary understanding of the drawings and paintings will be important to historians and other researchers, and will be part of the cataloging that goes with the acquisition by CMH, Ms. Klish said. 📌



◀ "Landing Zone Washington."

OnPoint

The Army in Action





Iraq

Sgt. 1st Class Michael Gibson directs a convoy of M1A2 Abrams tanks down a road in Kahn Bani Sahd. — *Photo by Staff Sgt. Stacy L. Pearsall, USAF*



▲ Iraq

Soldiers guide a newly assembled assault float bridge section up the Tigris River.

— Photo by Mass Communications Specialist 2nd Class Kitt Amaritnant, USN



▼ Afghanistan

SpC. Daniel Parreira of the Connecticut National Guard's 102nd Infantry Regiment pulls security while Afghan National Police officers investigate a construction roadblock while on patrol in Bagram.

— Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Dexter D. Clouden





▲ Florida

Fourteen-year-old Riley Woina, who has cystic fibrosis, gives a thumbs-up as he lifts off for a flight in an Army helicopter, part of a wish that came true for him courtesy of the Make-A-Wish Foundation and the 6th Ranger Training Battalion at Eglin Air Force Base.

— Photo by Capt. Jeremiah Cordovano

◀ Iraq

Staff Sgt. John Sickman operates a portable ground penetrating radar to locate possible human remains during a search for a missing Soldier in western Baghdad.

— Photo by Mass Communications Specialist 2nd Class Kitt Amaritnant, USN



▲ Iraq

Spc. Victor Ramos (left) and Staff Sgt. George Castro take notes during a briefing before a nighttime patrol.

— Photo by Sgt. Tierney Nowland



▲ Spc. Peter Miner of the 237th Military Police Company pulls security at a landing zone in preparation for the arrival of a medevac helicopter that will pick up a simulated casualty during the exercise at Fort Pickett.

Granite Triangle

Story and Photos by Staff Sgt. Jon Soucy

THE gray clouds seemed to turn darker with each passing minute, blotting out more and more of the sun and casting a huge, dark shadow over the earth. A whirlwind of air blew leaves, grass and nearly everything not tied down, across the field.

In the downdraft created by a Navy MH-53E Sea Dragon — one of the U.S. military's largest helicopters — four New Hampshire Army National Guard Soldiers rushed to complete their mission.

As part of a sling-load operation, a training segment of Exercise Granite Triangle, the Soldiers from Company C, 3rd Battalion, 172nd Infantry Regiment, fastened a Humvee to a yellow hook dangling from the aircraft.

The annual exercise at Fort Pickett, Va., brought together about 250 U.S. military personnel, including a

large National Guard contingent, and Canadian troops from Halifax, Nova Scotia. Active Army, Army Reserve, Navy and Marine Corps personnel also participated.

The Canadians commanded this year's exercise, which focused on military operations in urban terrain; identifying and reacting to improvised explosive devices; sling-load and rappelling operations; and operating in a joint-service environment.

Col. W.A. MacDonald, commander of both the 36th Canadian Brigade Group and Granite Triangle, said a field-training exercise that incorporated everything the soldiers had learned during the exercise capped off the two-week event.

Participants were familiar with most of the tasks, but the chance to work with members of other services was one of the most valuable parts of the exercise, he said.

"It seems like everything is a joint operation today," said Spc. Jacob

Mavrogeorge of Co. C. "The hardest thing is being able to recognize the other services' ranks."

U.S. Soldiers have worked hand-in-hand with Canadian soldiers in previous exercises, but that changed this year. Because Canadian troops are currently deployed overseas, Canadians commanded the exercise but sent no ground troops.

"Last year we did more of a coalition-type thing with the Canadians," said Pfc. Andrew Cormier of the New Hampshire Guard's 237th Military Police Battalion. "They're overseas right now, so we haven't gotten to do anything like that."

Going overseas is in the near future for Pfc. Cormier and his unit, as they're slated for duty in Iraq. Because of that, the training had added impact for the 237th's members.

They learned to keep their heads down, said Pfc. Cormier. And realistic training, including convoy-operations training and instruction on how

Staff Sgt. John Soucy works at the National Guard Bureau Public Affairs Office.



to identify improvised explosive devices, was invaluable, given what could await the Soldiers in Iraq.

The training can definitely be applied to the National Guard's state missions as well, said Spc. Justin McNeff, also from Co. C.

"It gives us, as a company, more mobility for any at-home emergency calls that we might make, like those in response to floods," said Spc. McNeff, referring to the sling-load training.

▲ Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Adrian Cristea (center), a crew chief with the Navy's Helicopter Mine Countermeasures Squadron 14, assists Spc. Justin McNeff (left) and Spc. Adam Haggett, both with Company C, 3rd Battalion, 172nd Infantry Regiment, with slingloading a Humvee to a Navy MH-53E Sea Dragon helicopter, which then moves off with its load.

Getting under the chopper was Spc. Adam Haggett's favorite part of the training, he said. "Just the adrenaline rush from having the chopper five feet over your head is an amazing feeling." 🚩





Training in Ethiopia

Story by Mass Communications Specialist 1st Class Mary Popejoy, USN

Photo by Mass Communications Specialist Eric Clement, USN

SOLDIERS from Company C of the 294th Infantry Regiment's 1st Battalion recently organized what's called the Coalition Junior Noncommissioned Officers Course for 17 Ethiopian army NCOs in Hurso, Ethiopia.

For the students to get the most from the training, Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa officials

Mass Communications Specialist 1st Class Mary Popejoy and Mass Communications Specialist Eric Clement are assigned to the CJTF-HOA Public Affairs Office.

chose the location for the training and made special logistics arrangements for students who might not otherwise have been able to attend the course.

"We chose Hurso because it's where most of the students attended their basic training," said Sgt. Rayanthony Martinez, a course instructor. Additionally, interpreters translated the student handbook and briefings into Amharic, the Ethiopian language.

Ethiopian soldiers learned such things as the role of noncommissioned officers; duties and responsi-

bilities of a leader; leadership ethics; land navigation; platoon movement formations; and how to conduct reconnaissance patrols and squad drills.

They also received instruction on human rights, rules of law and the laws of armed conflict.

While the students learned many important skills, training focused on the NCO corps.

"The difference between our Army and most other armies is that we train our NCOs in a professional education system," said Sgt.

Staff Sgt. Robert Conley discusses improvised explosive devices, better known as IEDs, with members of the Ethiopian soldiers.



Maj. Claude Elliott, commandant of the Army's NCO Academy. "We teach them to accept their duties and responsibilities for the care and individual training of Soldiers.

"NCOs are indispensable through the training process," he said. "They continue the 'soldierization' process of newly assigned Soldiers and begin their professional development.


"The biggest takeaways from the training we're giving Ethiopian soldiers is a chance to become more self-sufficient, and teaching them to

defend themselves against those who intentionally cause harm and disrupt their way of life," he continued.

"This training is two-fold," Sgt. Maj. Elliott said. "It gives us a chance to train current and future junior NCOs for leadership and provides direct training assistance to foreign militaries from CJTF-HOA coalition partner countries, which are working to develop their NCO corps, he said.

CJTF-HOA is part of U.S. Central Command. The organization conducts operations and training to assist part-

ner nations to combat terrorism and establish a secure environment conducive to regional stability. More than 1,500 people from each branch of the U.S. military, civilian employees, coalition forces and partner nations compose CJTF-HOA.

Its area of responsibility includes the nations of Djibouti, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya, Somalia and Sudan; the Seychelles, a group of islands in the West Indian Ocean northeast of Madagascar; and Yemen, on the Arabian Peninsula. 

ESL PROGRAM MOVES TO FORT JACKSON

THE English as a Second Language Program that teaches English to Arabic-speaking individuals who want to become translators and interpreters in the U.S. Army has been streamlined and moved to Fort Jackson, S.C.

ESL, which was previously taught at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, is the first step for Arabic-speakers who want to become interpreters for the Army.

Lt. Col. Kerry MacIntyre, commander of the 187th Ordnance Battalion, said the move will help get Arabic translators to the field sooner and provide a "One Stop Shop" for Soldiers training to become translators.

Previously, those who aspired to become Arabic translators first reported to Fort Sill, Okla.

The ESL program is for Arabic-, Dari- and Pashto-speaking individuals. Applicants must be language proficient in both the target language and English, and must achieve an English Comprehension-Level score of 50+50 and successfully complete an oral proficiency Interview.

It will take Soldiers between 11 and 24 weeks to complete the application and training process.

During their time in the ESL course, Soldiers learn to march and participate in physical training.

The Arabic Linguist Pilot Program, implemented in 2003, trains about 70 Soldiers a year.

Soldiers are given six weeks of group-paced instructional time, including a three-day field training exercise.

— Fort Jackson Public Affairs Office



HIRING HEROES

THROUGH a Department of Defense initiative called the Hiring-Heroes Career Fair, DOD officials are reaching out to injured service members and their spouses to help them find civilian employment in DOD, other federal agencies and the private sector.

Career fairs have been held at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C.; Fort Sam Houston, Texas; Fort Bragg, N.C.; Fort Gordon, Ga., and Fort Dix, N.J.

Volunteers also conduct resume-writing workshops the day before the career fairs open.

For Hiring-Heroes Career Fairs schedules and locations visit www.godefense.com or call (888) 363-4872.

— www.godefense.com

INFANTRY MUSEUM CHANGES NAME

THE new Infantry Museum has changed its name to the National Infantry Museum and Soldier Center at Patriot Park in Columbus, Ga.

Besides displaying Army artifacts, the Soldier Center will offer visitors a 3-D

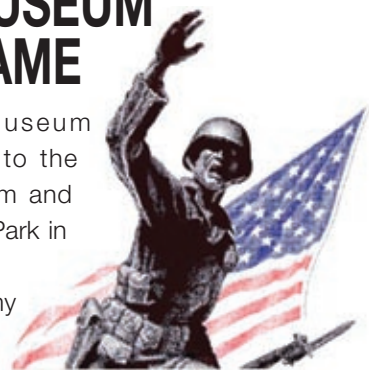
IMAX Theatre, a themed restaurant and a gift shop.

The 200-acre site includes a re-created World War II "company street," a memorial walk of honor, a parade field and a stadium.

The park will eventually include a new armor museum, which, along with the Army's Armor School, will move to Fort Benning, Ga., in 2009.

Construction of the museum is expected to be completed in 2008.

— National Infantry Foundation



For more information, visit www.nationalinfantryfoundation.org.

REFERRAL BONUS EXTENDED TO ARMY CIVILIANS

THE Army has expanded its \$2K Referral Bonus program to include civilian employees, making it possible for them to earn \$2,000 while helping the Army boost enlistments.

Until recently, the recruiting incentive — known as the “\$2K Referral Bonus” program for the regular Army and Army Reserve, and “Every Soldier is a Recruiter” in the National Guard — applied only to Soldiers and Army retirees who referred applicants who enlist, complete basic training and graduate from advanced individual training.

The bonus for referring a prospective applicant who has never served in the armed forces originated in January 2006 with a \$1,000 bonus.

Under the newly expanded program, Army civilians who refer prospective recruits — before the applicants meet with a recruiter — are eligible for the award. Restrictions preclude the referral of an immediate family member (including an adopted child or stepchild).

Additionally, the referral must be made via the following Web sites, respectively, for active-duty Army prospective recruits and Army National Guard prospective recruits: www.usarec.army.mil/smart/ or www.1800goguard.com/esar.

Referrals for the regular Army and Army Reserve may also be made by calling U.S. Army Recruiting Command at (800) 223-3735. Referrals to the National Guard may be made by calling (866) 566-2472.

For more information, visit www.usarec.army.mil/smart/ or call (800) 223-3735, extension 6-0473. — *Army News Service*



“KEYLOGGING” CAN ENDANGER SAVINGS

PEOPLE who use their home computers to access Thrift Savings Plan accounts can be vulnerable to having their personal information stolen.

According to a recent alert posted on the TSP Web site, officials have identified customers who are victims of a computer crime known as “keylogging” or “keystroke logging.” Keylogging is a diagnostic tool used in software development that captures a user’s keystrokes.

In the wrong hands, it enables criminals to record all the typing on a keyboard without the user’s knowledge. The technique can capture a computer user’s TSP personal identification number or other personal account information, such as a Social Security number.

As a precaution against possible theft, discontinue making electronic payments for online transactions.

TSP officials further recommend that computer users follow computer-security principles at home and download free antivirus software by visiting www.jtfgn0.mil from a “mil” account or military computer system.

— CID PAO

AMERICA'S LAST-KNOWN WWI COMBAT VETERAN DIES

FORMER Army Cpl. Howard V. Ramsey, Oregon's last living World War I combat veteran and the last known U.S. combat veteran of World War I, died in his sleep Feb. 22 at an assisted living center in Portland.

He was honored during a memorial service one month before his 109th birthday.



In an Associated Press report, Mr. Jim Benson of the Department of Veterans Affairs said there are now only seven World War I veterans on record with the VA, although it's possible other unknown veterans may still be alive.

Of the known World War I veterans still living, none were shipped overseas, making Cpl. Ramsey the last known combat veteran of that war.

Too young to be drafted, Cpl. Ramsey tried to enlist but was told he was too skinny by Army standards. After successfully meeting weight standards, he was placed in the Army's Transportation Corps.

Cpl. Ramsey sailed to France in September 1918 to join Gen. John Pershing's American Expeditionary Force. Cpl. Ramsey drove cars, trucks and motorcycles for the Army. — ARNEWS

Free

2007 MILITARY HANDBOOKS AVAILABLE

FREE 2007 handbooks written specifically for service members and veterans — covering such information as pay, benefits, education and transitioning from the military — are now available.

The books are:

- ✓ 2007 United States Military Handbook
- ✓ 2007 U.S. Military Retired Handbook
- ✓ 2007 Getting Uncle Sam to Pay For Your College Degree Handbook
- ✓ 2007 After the Military Handbook
- ✓ 2007 Benefits For Veterans and Dependents Handbook
- ✓ 2007 Veterans Health Care Benefits Handbook
- ✓ 2007 Military Children's Scholarship Handbook

The service is offered by Grantham Education Corp., which owns and recruits for Grantham University. — www.militaryhandbooks.com

BELVOIR PREPARES EPG FOR CONSTRUCTION

AN area at Fort Belvoir, Va., long known as the Engineer Proving Ground will soon become home to two major organizations — the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency and the Washington Headquarters Service. Both are coming to Fort Belvoir as part of 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission recommendations.

A major step in the construction process is cleaning up the land once used by engineers from the Belvoir Research and Development Center for testing and waste storage, to ensure the land is environmentally safe, said Laura Curtis, environmental specialist at the post.

Work on EPG has been ongoing since September 2006. So far, workers have found fewer than 10 munitions, but they have found more than 26,000 pounds of scrap metal.



All of these items are examined by ordnance-disposal crews and then recycled. — Fort Belvoir PAO

A REQUIREMENT FOR CAPTAINS

THE Captains' Career Common Core Course becomes a requirement for graduation from all branch captains' career courses this month.

The course provides training in such critical skills as leadership, communication, composite-risk management and critical reasoning.

The skills are intended to prepare officers for their next 10 years of service and are in keeping with the Army chief of staff's vision to continue transformation of the Army Officer Education System.

The instruction is in a Web-based, interactive multimedia format that allows for self-paced study. — ARNEWS



More information is available at www.usacac.army.mil/cac/cal.

INCREASING MILITARY FAMILIES' BUYING POWER

SERVICE members looking to stretch their energy dollars further need look no further than their nearest exchange.

The Army and Air Force Exchange Service is promoting the energy- and climate-saving Energy Star products

to help military shoppers save money while protecting the environment.

A joint program of the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Energy, Energy Star will help AAFES communicate the benefits of energy-saving products to more than 11.5 million authorized exchange shoppers.

The EPA introduced the Energy Star label in 1992 to recognize energy-efficient computers.



Since then, the label has grown to include efficient products in more than 35 product categories.

Last year, with the help of Energy Star, Americans saved enough energy to power 15 million homes and reduced air pollution equivalent to that produced by an estimated 14 million cars, while saving \$7 billion on energy bills, Energy Star officials reported. — AAFES PAO

For more information on AAFES, visit www.aafes.com/pa/default.asp.

MEDICAL INDEPENDENT REVIEW GROUP SEEKS COMMENTS

THE Independent Review Group, recently established by Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates, wants to hear from patients and family members about their experiences with military medical care.

Sec. Gates established the group to identify shortfalls in rehabilitative care and administrative processes at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C., and at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Md.

Patients and family members can offer their comments anonymously on the Independent Review Group's Web site at www.ha.osd.mil/dhb/irg. Click under the caption titled "How You Can Help."

The independent review group has also established a telephone hotline at (866) 268-2285, where comments may be submitted anonymously.

Though an independent review group staff member will not be on the line, submissions will be recorded and reviewed by the staff.

— DOD PAO

Independent Review Group's Web site at www.ha.osd.mil/dhb/irg.

Emeril So

Cooks up

Story by Mr. Steve Davis

THE savory aroma of cedar-plank salmon, fire-roasted red pepper soup and other gourmet meals wafted about Fort Hamilton, N.Y., in early April, thanks to chef and TV personality Emeril Lagasse.

During the filming at Manhattan's Chelsea Market of "Emeril's Army-Navy Cookoff," about 30 Fort Hamilton Soldiers and family members

watched Mr. Lagasse prepare meals based on recipes created by the winners of the cookoff, among whom was Chief Warrant Officer 4 Travis Smith of the Korea-based 19th Expeditionary Sustainment Command.

The 60-minute show will air at 8 p.m. (ET) June 29 on the Food Network, and will feature three Army and three Navy winners of Emeril's Military Recipe Contest. The contest attracted hundreds of entries from U.S. service personnel from as far away as Kuwait and South Korea.

The program will be followed at 8 p.m. June 30 by "Emeril's Military Contest" show, showcasing the talents of Air Force, Marine and Coast Guard military cookoff winners.

During the taping of the first program — which also featured musical interludes provided by the U.S. Army Blues Ensemble "Swamp Romp" and the Army Brass Quintet — Mr. Lagasse cooked up the winning recipes with much advice from the military chefs.

And, as always, Mr. Lagasse's

Mr. Steve Davis works for the Fort Hamilton, N.Y., Public Affairs Office.



Idier Recipes

► Music during the taping was provided by the U.S. Army Blues Ensemble "Swamp Romp" and the Army Brass Quintet.

high-energy presentation kept his audience fully engaged.

"The show was really fun," said Spc. Jessenia Oyola, one of five Soldiers from the Fort Hamilton-based Joint Task Force Empire Shield MTA who sat a few rows from the stage as flavors filled the air. "I had never been to a TV show before and was surprised by the energy that went into it."

What impressed another Soldier was Emeril's sincerity.

"He was really genuine and enthusiastic," Spc. Neketa Clarke said about the world-famous chef. "He saw us and the military winners as celebrities."

"This is a great event that gives the military some positive exposure," said Chief Warrant Officer 4 Smith. "I'm proud to be part of it." 🍴

◄ Mr. Emeril Lagasse talks with, from left, Chief Warrant Officer 4 Travis Smith, Petty Officer Joseph Chiarelli and Spc. Andrew Ruga during a break in the taping.



The Military Recipe Contest winners are:

Army: Chief Warrant Officer 4 Travis Smith of the Korea-based 19th Expeditionary Sustainment Command, for "Fire-Roasted Red Pepper Soup with Cilantro Cream and Grilled Cajun Catfish."

National Guard: Spc. Andrew Ruga of the 222nd Transportation Company at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, for "Pecan Crusted Chicken over Field Greens With Caramel Citrus Vinaigrette."

Navy: Petty Officer Joseph Chiarelli from the USS *Tarawa*, for "Cedar Plank Salmon Parmesan with Asian Reduction Sauce over Julienned Vegetables."

Air Force: Tech. Sgt. Wesley Williams of Ellsworth Air Force Base, S.D., for "Rainbow Fruit Stuffed Pork Tenderloin with Fried Cheddar Grits and a Blueberry Coulis."

Marines: Col. Stewart Navarre of Camp Pendleton, Calif., for "Combat Steak."

Coast Guard: Petty Officer 1st Class Stacey Russell, Sector Long Island Sound in New Haven, Conn., for "Stacey's Pumpkin Pie."

Pfc. Luke Schneider of the 1st Battalion, 38th Infantry Regiment, was one of 550 Soldiers from Fort Lewis, Wash., who helped battle wildfires in Washington state last year.

Spc. Abel Trevino



▲ Maj. Gen. Walter Zink, commander of U.S. Army North's operational Command Post 1, faces the press during an exercise in California to explain the Department of Defense role in supporting federal and state agencies in relief efforts.

Mr. Bob Purtiman

Preparing for

► Army North oversaw the activities of the 550 Soldiers who in 2006 worked side by side with civilian firefighters to battle the Tripod Complex fire.



Mrs. Patti Bielling

When a hurricane barrels toward the United States or wild fires threaten, U.S. Army, North, is prepared to assist civil authorities in the response.

Created in October 2005, Army North is the Army component of U.S. Northern Command, the unified command responsible for homeland defense

Mrs. Patti Bielling works for the U.S. Army, North, Public Affairs Office at Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

and support of civil authorities.

The more than 500

Soldiers and civilians of Army North maintain their readiness through robust planning, realistic training, and established relationships with critical civilian and military partners in homeland defense and consequence management.

Not many people know about the new command and its mission, said Col. Jeffrey Buchanan, Army North's director of operations.

"This is now a full-time job," Col. Buchanan said. "When a disaster happens, it's not a pick-up team. We work with our state and local federal partners every day, and that will help make the federal government and the Department of Defense response more effective."

Soldiers and Firefighters

During the 2006 wildfire season, for example, Army North

oversaw a battalion of 500 Soldiers who worked side by side with civilian firefighters to battle the Tripod Complex fire in north-central Washington.

The military's contribution was critical in a busy fire season in which more than 9 million acres burned, said Doug Shinn of the National Interagency Fire Center in Boise, Idaho, the federal organization responsible for committing the nation's fire-management resources.

"Deploying a military battalion allowed us to diversify our assets," Mr. Shinn said. "We were able to reallocate civilian crews to fight other large fires and to conduct initial attacks on fires throughout the West."

Disaster

Story by
Mrs. Patti Bielling

Army North Facts

Location:

Historic Quadrangle, Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

Personnel:

About 540 military members, civilians and contractors.

History:

Army North traces its lineage to the Fifth United States Army and achieved full operational capability in October 2006.

Key Equipment:

The command has leveraged state-of-the-art communications and command-and-control vehicles that ensure interoperability among local, state and federal responders, regardless of the frequencies or type of equipment used.

Other Missions

➤ HOMELAND DEFENSE

Army North's homeland-defense mission includes deterring, detecting, preventing and defeating attacks on the United States or its citizens, said COL Jeffrey Buchanan, Army North's director of operations. "That could range anywhere from a terrorist attack to a missile launch targeting the United States to an enemy army coming across the nation's borders," he said.

➤ THEATER SECURITY COOPERATION

Army North conducts conferences and training activities with the Mexican and Canadian armies. "The overarching goal is to develop an enhanced partnership that will lead to a higher level of security for all North Americans," said MAJ John Hytten, foreign area officer for the command.

➤ TRAINING

Army North's Civil Support Readiness Directorate is the command's resident expert on CBRNE, or Chemical, Biological, Radiological/Nuclear, and High Yield Explosive response. The directorate oversees training of National Guard Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Teams

➤ EDUCATION

Army North developed and conducts the strategic-level Defense Support of Civil Authorities course, which attracts military and civilian consequence managers from across the United States. The three-phase course includes a distance-learning course to provide a general overview and a one-week interactive classroom session focusing on intergovernmental and interagency response.

➤ SPECIAL EVENTS

Army North also supports national special security events such as the president's state of the union address, presidential funerals and the Republican and Democratic national conventions.

In the end, the Soldiers helped protect about 500 structures near Mazama, Wash. They helped battle the flames and constructed more than 50 miles of fire lines to contain the Tripod Complex fire.

Preparing for Cooperation

When a hurricane or other disaster

overwhelms state resources, Army North is also prepared to assist, Buchanan said.

"If a state requests federal assistance, DOD may be employed as part of the federal response package, bringing additional capabilities to save lives and restore life-support systems," Col. Buchanan said. "We



▲ Sgt. 1st Class Jeffrey Carter — Army North's nuclear, chemical and biological NCOIC — checks the fit of a Soldier's protective mask.

could be asked to do such things as search and rescue, distribute food and supplies, provide clean water or safe shelter, restore communications or provide medical support."

Ardent Sentry '07 was the latest exercise designed to test Army North's ability to respond to multiple disasters, including a simulated hurricane striking New England, and terrorist attacks in the Midwest and Alaska. The exercise was sponsored in early May by the Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Department of Defense.

"Training events like this allow federal, state and local agencies to review processes and techniques and build relationships," said Army North exercise planner LTC Paul Condon. "It was designed to be challenging and complex, so agencies can stress their people and resources and look at new options and solutions."

Army North deployed one of its two operational command posts to the Northeast to exercise command-and-control processes for notional forces responding to the hurricane. With augmentation, these scalable organizations may expand to joint task forces, and the headquarters at Army North can organize as a joint task force, command and control multiple joint task forces, or can expand into a joint force land component command.

► Army North civilian satellite systems technician Mr. Timothy Thomas sets up communications equipment during an exercise in California. Army North Sentinel command-and-control vehicles enable vital communications among federal, state and local agencies during emergencies or natural disasters.

Mr. Bob Putman

An Able Team

Other key players during a disaster are Army North's 10 Defense Coordinating Officers, who are DOD representatives on the ground to coordinate use of military resources with federal and state authorities. These officers and a small staff are collocated with each of the Federal Emergency Management Agency regional headquarters, and strive to become experts on state and federal response plans.

Maj. John D. Ring is the operations officer for Region III, which includes West Virginia, Virginia, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland and the District of Columbia. He said he has attended a number of consequence-management events in the last year.

"Participating in those conferences and exercises gives us a chance to coordinate with planners and responders before something happens," Maj. Ring said. "We've also gained an appreciation for the states' capabilities — I'm very impressed with what they can do."

The DCOs also interface with military installations within their regions that may be designated as support platforms during a contingency.

Maj. Ring said the job is like nothing he's ever done before.

"There was a steep learning curve — a whole new language and a whole new set of rules to learn," he said. "We in the Army are trained to go in and take charge, but during a civil-support mission, we really are in a support role, so it's a different way of doing business. I love the challenge." ■

► Sgt. 1st Class Michael Hammond and Maj. Edwin Escobar of Army North's Force Protection Office take part in a command-post exercise.

Mrs. Patti Belling



SOLDIER-CHEFS SHOW CULINARY TALENTS

Fort Lee, Va.

SOME 200 Soldier-chefs from Army installations around the world traded body armor and M-16 rifles for filet knives, spatulas and pastry bags during the 32nd annual U.S. Army Culinary Arts Competition.

The Soldiers exhibited their talents in preparing hot foods, cold buffets, pastries and chocolate works of art to earn individual and team gold, silver and bronze medals in 14 categories.

Internationally known chefs judged the competitors, based on each entry's taste and the chef's technique.

The competition gave Soldiers a chance to try out for the U.S. Army Culinary Arts Team, which will compete against other national military teams at the 2008 World Culinary Olympics, to be held in Germany in October. — *Fort Lee Public Affairs Office*



ABERDEEN TEST CENTER: ADVANCING INNOVATIONS

Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md.

AS the Defense Department hurries to get the latest weapons systems and protective equipment to deployed troops, the Aberdeen Test Center at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., is operating at what its commander calls a “fast and furious rate” to ensure that effectiveness and safety remain top priorities.

During the past two years the center's scientists, technicians and engineers have tested about 30 Rapid Fielding Initiative items a week, with more than 1,400 tests conducted last year. There's been an 87-percent increase in range activity at APG since 2001.

“Our focus is on identifying the best technology available now, getting that capability to the warfighter today, and then improving on it,” said center commander Col. John Rooney.

— *Army News Service*



THERAPY DISGUISED AS FUN

Fort Sam Houston, Texas

A one-of-a-kind virtual-reality simulator and a sports program that can challenge even extreme sports fans are part of the Army's new physical-rehabilitation center, which offers patients "therapy disguised as fun," said Col. John Shero, deputy chief of administration at Brooke Army Medical Center.

The four-story, 65,000-square-foot Center for the Intrepid helps wounded Soldiers with severe extremity injuries, burns and amputations live and work productively and have fun as they recover.

The center's Military Performance Lab includes a 21-foot dome with a 300-degree screen that displays a variety of virtual tours, such as a hike through the woods or a walk through city streets.

When it comes to sports, patients can climb a 21-foot tower, play volleyball or swim in a six-lane pool.

Much of the CFI's equipment is geared to research; information collected can help physicians, physical therapists and prostheses makers adjust their treatment plans and improve patient care.

More than 600,000 people donated a total of \$50 million to the Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund to build the recently opened center.

— *ARNEWS*



SYNERGY TO LAUNCH IN HOUSING

Schofield Barracks, Hawaii

SYNERGY, Saving Your Nation's Energy, is an Hawaii Army family housing initiative to educate residents living in privatized military communities about their roles and responsibilities in

energy conservation.

The program is part of Actus Lend Lease's corporate commitment to reduce energy consumption 20 percent by 2010 and support the Army's initiative for Soldiers and their families to be responsible "community custodians."

"Building and maintaining sustainable communities is a top goal at AHFH, and conserving energy in our day-to-day lives is something every family member can do, no matter what their age," said Jerry Schmitz, AHFH asset manager. "Whether it's shortening our showers by a few minutes or turning off lights, the savings can be significant."

For more information about SYNERGY and AHFH's activities and programs, visit www.ArmyHawaiiFamilyHousing.com.

— *U.S. Army Garrison, Hawaii, PAO*



Reverse Mortgages

So-called reverse mortgages can generate a new source of money for some homeowners. These mortgages are of primary interest to retired military members, those nearing retirement, and those with elderly parents or other family members.

Most reverse-mortgage advertisements depict them as a way to pay off existing debts or of allowing older people to continue living the lifestyles to which they are accustomed. Although the objectives appear noble, to achieve them requires understanding and individual consumer determination.



principal, plus interest, when the home is sold or refinanced by the heirs after the death of the borrower. The remaining value of the home goes to the borrower, or through his or her estate.

Under current regulations, eligibility to participate in the HUD program

is limited to homeowners over 62 who have paid off their mortgages. It's also open to age-qualified homeowners who have only small mortgage balances remaining and which will be paid off by the loan, and who intend to continue to live in the home. Lenders want to be the "first" mortgage. Borrowers must receive consumer information from a HUD-approved counseling source. Call (800) 569-4287 for the name and telephone number of an approved counseling agency and FHA-approved lenders.

Help for Older Homeowners

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development created reverse mortgages in 1987 as a safe and regulated method to give American homeowners over the age of 62 a means of obtaining funds with greater financial security.

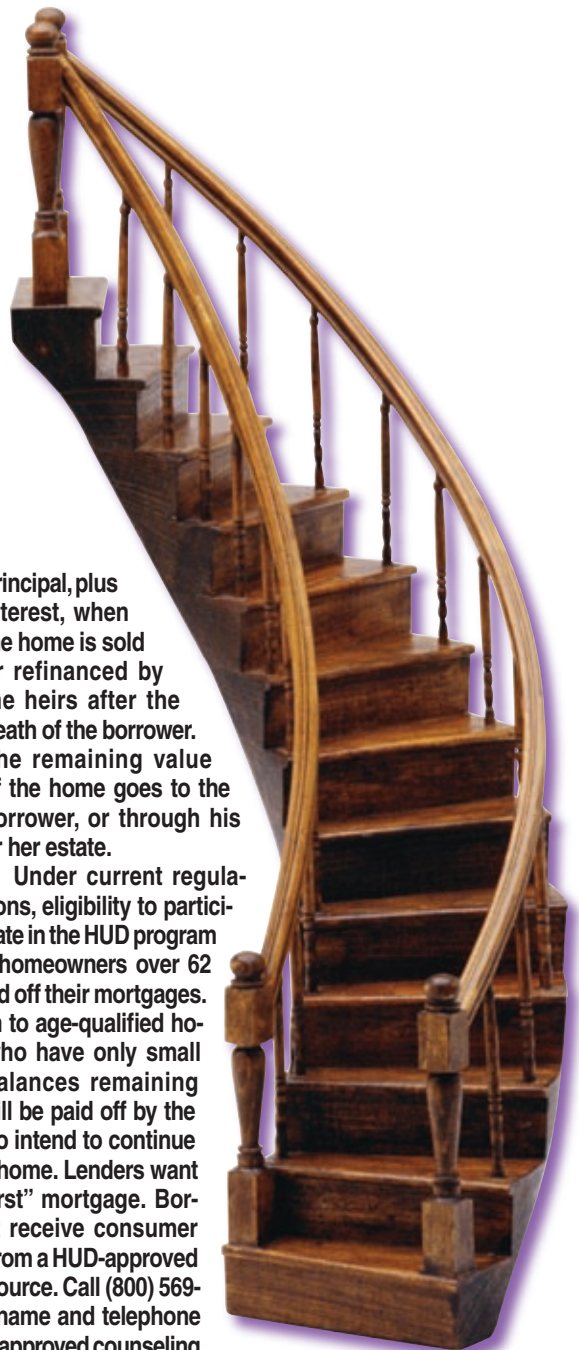
The reverse mortgage is simply a form of equity loan on a home. It differs from regular home-equity loans in that the loan does not require repayment as long as the borrower lives in the home. Lenders recover their



Mr. Steven Chucala is chief of the Legal Assistance Division in the office of the Staff Judge Advocate at Fort Belvoir, Va.

Several Options

Qualified homeowners may receive the funds as a lump sum; on an equal monthly basis (for a fixed term or for as long as they live in the home); on an occasional basis as a line of credit; or on





cash you can get) and the value of the home. HUD also considers the plan you select and the kind of cash advance you select. The home need not have been purchased with FHA mortgage insurance.

a monthly basis with payments over a fixed period of months. The payments may be restructured should the homeowner's circumstances change.

Here are some other facts to consider:

■ HUD charges qualified borrowers a fee of 2 percent of the home's value at the inception of the loan and a fee of one-half percent on the loan balance each year thereafter. The lender normally pays HUD the fees and then adds them to the principal balance owed by the borrower.

■ HUD also guarantees the borrower that the loan will be made even if the lender goes bankrupt. The lender is also guaranteed that it will get its money back with interest and fees, even if the homeowner outlives the longevity tables or the value of the property decreases.

■ Loan amounts are determined by several factors, including the prospective borrower's age (the older you are, the more

■ Qualifying homes include townhouses, detached homes, units in condominiums and some manufactured homes. Condominiums must be FHA approved, meet minimum FHA standards and be in reasonably good condition.

■ The loan amount is capped by the maximum FHA loan limit for each city and county, and varies from \$175,000 in rural areas to \$315,000 in most major metropolitan areas. There are no borrower income or asset requirements, and the loans may be repaid at any time without penalty.

■ Borrowers may use the funds as desired, but continue to be responsible for the payment of property taxes, maintenance and repair costs, and home insurance. If the homeowner fails to fulfill these requirements, declares bankruptcy, abandons the home, or loses the home through an eminent-domain action or condemnation, the lender may demand immediate repayment.

■ If the value of the home is insufficient to repay the lender, HUD will pay the lender the dollar amount of the shortfall.

Where Do I Start? Reverse mortgages can be a useful tool for many homeowners, but be sure you understand the conditions and requirements before you sign on the dotted line.



For additional information, visit the HUD reverse mortgage Web site at www.hud.gov/buying/rvrsmort.cfm.



Know the Law!

Many of the Army's most compelling stories, images and videos are never seen or shared simply because the storytellers are unaware of a powerful new tool, which provides an arsenal of capabilities to tell the Army story. With this tool it's easy to instantly reach beyond local units and communities.

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American Battle Monuments Commission

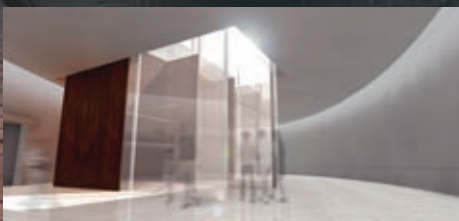
Remembering Those Who Fell

Dedication of the new Normandy American Cemetery Visitor Center June 6, 2007

The Visitor Center is designed to complement and enhance the experience of visiting the cemetery, where 8,387 military dead are buried overlooking Omaha Beach and the English Channel. Most lost their lives on D-Day, June 6, 1944. The center will pay tribute to the values and sacrifices of the World War II generation, which still sustain us. The cemetery — along with other cemeteries and monuments — is maintained by the American Battle Monuments Commission.

More information about the Visitor Center dedication is available at
www.abmc.gov.

Normandy American Cemetery Visitor Center



Sacrifice Gallery



South End



Lobby



2007 Army Birthday Message

Meeting in Philadelphia 232 years ago, the Second Continental Congress created the United States Army. A short thirteen months later, this same Congress drafted and signed the Declaration of Independence. It was clear to our founding fathers that security, especially security guaranteed by a strong and capable Army, was a precondition for successful democracy and freedom.

Like that extraordinary time in America's fledgling democratic history, this remains true today. The Army's role in securing freedom remains paramount.

As we proudly celebrate the United States Army's 232nd Birthday on 14 June 2007, and do so in the midst of a long and challenging war, it is useful to remind ourselves that the Army has always existed to field forces for victory.

From the Battle of Yorktown to Belleau Wood, from D-Day to the Chosin Reservoir, from Vietnam to Iraq and Afghanistan, Soldiers have demonstrated unmatched courage, dedication, and willingness to sacrifice to accomplish any mission. They have served our country with incredible honor and distinction. They understood, as few others have, that our Constitution and the freedom it guarantees are worth fighting for. They have sacrificed their personal comfort and safety to answer a higher calling--service in the cause of freedom, both at home and abroad.

Today's Soldiers symbolize the nobility of selfless service. Today's Soldiers are motivated by an unwavering belief that they will be victorious on the field of battle, because we have fought this way since 1775 and always will. Today's Soldiers are imbued with the Army Values and live the Warrior Ethos:

- I will always place the mission first.
- I will never accept defeat.
- I will never quit.
- I will never leave a fallen comrade.

While the Army has much work ahead of us, it has much to be proud of and to celebrate. God bless each and every one of you and your families, and God bless America.

Army Strong!

Kenneth O. Preston
Sergeant Major of the Army

George W. Casey
General, United States Army
Chief of Staff

Pete Geren
Acting Secretary of the Army

ARMY VALUES



LOYALTY
DUTY
RESPECT
SELFLESS SERVICE
HONOR
INTEGRITY
PERSONAL COURAGE

U.S. ARMY
CALL TO DUTY
BOOTS ON THE GROUND



U.S. ARMY

ARMY STRONG.™

ARMY VALUES

THE MOST IMPORTANT DECISIONS START WITH THE MOST IMPORTANT PEOPLE.



There's strong. And then there's Army Strong. You taught them right from wrong. You told them they could do anything. Now they want the discipline, leadership training and college benefits that come from being in the U.S. Army. If your son or daughter wants to talk about joining, listen. You just might be proud of what they have to say. Find out more at goarmy.com/for_parents.



Private Matthew Bryan

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